NUMB. CCCLXIV.

The SPECTATOR.

Strenua nos exercet inertia: Navibus atque
Quadrigis petimus bene vivere. Hor.

Monday, April 28. 1712.

SPECTATOR,

A Lady of my Acquaintance, for whom I ' have too much Reſpect to be eaſy ' while ſhe is doing an indiſcret Action, ' has given Occaſion to this Trouble: a Widow, to whom the Indulgence of a Husband has entruſted the Management of y great Fortune and a Son about ſixteen, which ſhe is extremely fond of. The Boy urts of the middle Size, neither ſhining nor able, and has paſſed the common Exerciſes Years with tolerable Advantage; but is what you would call a forward Youth: e Help of this laſt Qualification, which as a Varniſh to all the reſt, he is enabled ke the beſt Uſe of his Learning, and diſ- it at full Length upon all Occaſions. Laſt ek he diſtinguiſhed himſelf two or three ery remarkably, by puzzling the Vicar be- n Aſſembly of moſt of the Ladies in the bourhood; and from ſuch weighty Confi- ons as theſe, as it too often unfortunately our, the Mother is become invincibly per- d that her Son is a great Scholar; and that ain him down to the ordinary Methods of ation with others of his Age, would be to his Faculties, and do an irreparable Injury wonderful Capacity.

appened to viſit at the Houſe laſt Week, miſſing the young Gentleman at the Tea- where he ſeldom fails to officiate, could pon ſo extraordinary a Circumſtance avoid ng after him. My Lady told me, He was out with her Woman, in order to make Preparations for their Equipage; for that tended very ſpeedily to carry him to travel. Oddneſs of the Expreſſion ſhocked me a ; however, I ſoon recovered my ſelf enough her know, that all I was willing to under- by it, was, that ſhe deſigned this Summer w her Son his Eſtate in a diſtant County, hich he has never yet been: But ſhe ſoon care to robb me of that agreeable Miſtake, let me into the whole Affair. She enlarged young Maſter's prodigious Improvements, his comprehenſive Knowledge of all Book- ing; concluding, That it was now high he ſhould be made acquainted with Men Things; That ſhe had reſolved he ſhould the Tour of *France* and *Italy*, but could bear to have him out of her Sight, and fore intended to go along with him.

was going to rally her for ſo extravagant a ion, but found my ſelf not in fit Humour dle with a Subject that demanded the moſt nd delicate Touch imaginable. I was afraid opping ſomething that might ſeem to bear either upon the Son's Abilities or the Mo- Diſcretion; being ſenſible that in both Caſes, though ſupported with all the Powers ' of Reaſon, I ſhould, inſtead of gaining her La- ' dyſhip over to my Opinion, only expoſe my ſelf ' to her Diſeſteem: I therefore immediately deter- ' mined to refer the whole Matter to the SPECTA- ' TOR.

' When I came to reflect at Night, as my Cuſtom ' is, upon the Occurrences of the Day, I could not ' but believe that this Humour of carrying a Boy to ' travel in his Mother's Lap, and that upon Pre- ' tence of learning Men and Things, is a Caſe of ' an extraordinary Nature, and carries on it a par- ' ticular Stamp of Folly. I did not remember to ' have met with its Parallel within the Compaſs of ' my Obſervation, though I could call to mind ' ſome not extremely unlike it: From hence my ' Thoughts took occaſion to ramble into the general ' Notion of Travelling, as it is now made a Part of ' Education. Nothing is more frequent than to ' take a Lad from Grammar and Taw, and under ' the Tuition of ſome poor Scholar, who is willing ' to be baniſhed for thirty Pounds a Year and a little ' Victuals, ſend him crying and ſnivelling into for- ' reign Countries. Thus he ſpends his Time as ' Children do at Puppet-Shows, and with much the ' ſame Advantage, in ſtaring and gaping at an ama- ' zing Variety of ſtrange things; ſtrange indeed ' to one that is not prepared to comprehend the ' Reaſons and Meaning of them; whilſt he ſhould ' be laying the ſolid Foundations of Knowledge in ' his Mind, and furniſhing it with juſt Rules to di- ' rect his future Progreſs in Life under ſome ſkillful ' Maſter of the Art of Inſtruction.

' Can there be a more aſtoniſhing Thought in ' Nature, than to conſider how Men ſhould fall ' into ſo palpable a Miſtake? It is a large Field, ' and may very well exerciſe a ſprightly Genius; ' but I don't remember you have yet taken a Turn ' in it. I wiſh, Sir, you would make People un- ' derſtand, that *Travel* is really the laſt Step to be ' taken in the Inſtitution of Youth; and that to ' ſet out with it, is to begin where they ſhould end.

' Certainly the true End of viſiting foreign ' Parts, is to look into their Cuſtoms and Polices, ' and obſerve in what Particulars they excell or ' come ſhort of our own; to unlearn ſome odd ' Peculiarities in our Manners, and wear off ſuch ' awkard Stiffneſſes and Affectations in our Beha- ' viour, as may poſſibly have been contracted from ' conſtantly aſſociating with one Nation of Men, ' by a more free, general, and mixed Converſation. ' But how can any of theſe Advantages be attained ' by one who is a meer Stranger to the Cuſtoms and ' Polices of his native Country, and has not yet ' fixed in his Mind the firſt Principles of Manners ' and Behaviour? To endeavour it, is to build a ' gaudy Structure without any Foundation; or, if ' I may be allowed the Expreſſion, to work a rich ' Embroidery upon a Cobweb.

' Another End of Travelling which deſerves to ' be conſider'd, is the Improving our Taſte of the

best Authors of Antiquity, by seeing the Places where they lived, and of which they wrote; to compare the natural Face of the Country with the Descriptions they have given us, and observe how well the Picture agrees with the Original. This must certainly be a most charming Exercise to the Mind, that is rightly turn'd for it; besides, that it may in a good Measure be made Subservient to Morality, if the Person is capable of drawing just Conclusions concerning the Uncertainty of humane Things, from the Ruinous alterations Time and Barbarity have brought upon so many Palaces, Cities, and whole Countries, which make the most illustrious Figures in History. And this Hint may be not a little improv'd by examining every Spot of Ground that we find celebrated as the Scene of some famous Action, or retaining any Foot-steps of a *Cato*, *Cicero* or *Brutus*, or some such great Vertuous Man. A nearer View of any such particular, tho' really little and trifling in its self, may serve the more powerfully to warm a generous Mind to an Emulation of their Virtues, and a greater Ardency of Ambition to imitate their bright Examples, if it comes duly tempered and prepared for the Impression. But this I believe you'll hardly think those to be who are so far from entring into the Sense and Spirit of the Ancients, that they don't yet understand their Language with any Exactness.

'I can't quit this Head without paying my Acknowledgments to one of the most entertaining Pieces this Age has produc'd, for the Pleasure it gave me. You will easily guess, that the Book I have in my Head is Mr. *A*------'s *Remarks upon Italy*. That Ingenious Gentleman has with so much Art and Judgment applied his exact Knowledge of all the Parts of Classical Learning to illustrate the several Occurrences of his Travels, that his Work alone is a pregnant Proof of what I have said. No Body that has a Taste this way, can read him going from *Rome* to *Naples*, and making *Horace* and *Silius Italicus* his Chart, but he must feel some uneasiness in himself to Reflect that he was not in his Retinue. I am sure, I wish'd it Ten Times in every Page, and that not without a secret Vanity to think in what State I should have Travelled the *Appian* Road with *Horace* for a Guide, and in Company with a Country-man of my own, who of all Men living knows best how to follow his Steps.

'But I have wandered from my Purpose, which was only to desire you to save, if possible, a fond *English* Mother, and Mother's *own* Son, from being shewn a ridiculous Spectacle thro' the most polite Part of *Europe*. Pray tell them, that tho' to be Seasick or jumbled in an outlandish Stage-Coach may perhaps be healthful for the Constitution of the Body, yet it is apt to cause such a dizziness in young empty Heads, as too often lasts their Life-Time.

I am,

SIR,

Your most humble Servant,
Philip Homebred.

SIR, *Burchin-Lane.*

'I was Married on *Sunday* last, and went peaceably to Bed; but to my surprize was awakened the next Morning by the Thunder of a Set of Drums. These warlike Sounds (methinks) are very improper in a Marriage Consort, and give great Offence; they seem to insinuate, that the Joys of this State are short, and that Jars and Discord soon Ensue. I fear they have been Ominous in many Matches, and sometimes prov'd a prelude to a Battle in the Honey-Moon. Nod from you may hush them; therefore Sir, let them be silenced, that for the future but soft Airs may Usher in the Bridal Night, which will be a Favour to those who come after, but to me who Subscribe my self.

Your most humble,
and most obedient Serv
Robin Bridg

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Am one of that sort of Women who 'gayer Part of our Sex are apt to call a But to shew them that I have very little Re their Railery, I shall be glad to see them *The Amorous Widow*; or, *The Wanton* which is to be Acted, for the Benefit of *Porter*, on *Monday* the 28th Instant. I assu I can Laugh at an Amorus Widow, or W Wife, with as little Temptation to imitate as I could at any other vitious Character. *Porter* obliged me so very much in the ex Sense she seemed to have of the hono Sentiments and noble Passions in the Ch of *Hermione*, that I shall appear in her be a Comedy, tho' I have no great relish f Entertainments where the Mirth is not se with a certain Severity, which ought to mend it to People who pretend to keep and Authority over all their Actions.

I am,

SIR,

Your frequent Reader,
Al

At the Desire of several Ladies of Q
For the Benefit of Mrs. PORTER, who is Recovery from a severe Feaver.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-this present Monday being the 28th Day of April, presented a Comedy call'd, The Amorous Widow; or, The Wife. By Her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be behind the Scenes. And to Morow, being Tuesday, wi sented a Comedy call'd, Valpone; or, The Fox. For the b Mr. Johnson.

A choice Collection of ORIGINAL PICTU by several extraordinary good Hands, will be Sold by Au Friday the 2d of May, (and not on Thursday the 1st, as fore Advertised,) at Mr. Pellitier's, next House to the Wh in Henrietta-Street, Covent Garden: Where Catalogues ma and of Mr. Cooper, at the three Pigeons, in Half-Moon-St

☞ An extraordinary Collection of O Pictures by the most celebrated Italian Masters, viz. Co tian, Paulo Veronese, Julio Romano, Tintoret, Palma, Bas racci, Michael Ang. Buonarotti, Borgognone, Francisco Bassa others will be Sold by Auction on Thursday the 9th of M at Mr. Pelitier's next House to the Wheatsheaf, in Henrie Covent-Garden; where Catalogues may be had, and at Mr. at the two Flower Pots in Sommerset Yard. The Pictures seen on Tuesday and Wednesday before the Sale.

Brooke and Hellier give Notice, that ha fresh Supply of natural Chianti Florence Wines arriv'd, and resolved not only to sell all their Wines neat and natural, b cheap as can possibly be afforded, they have ordered their in all their Taverns and Cellars to sell the same hereafterwa per Quart, 7 s. 6 d. per Gallon, and 3 Gallons for 10 l.

At black and white Court in the Old-Bail two fine Yorkshire Geldings of the best Breed, 5 Years fix, never Strained: To be Sold a Penny-worth, also a go useful Gelding, fit for the Shaise, Baggage, or Saddle. E above for Mr. Cooke.

To be Sold by AUCTION.

On Wednesday the 30th Instant, at 11 a C in an Appartment in the Thatched-House-Tavern in St. Street by St. James's House, the Houshold Goods, and a fine C on of Original Pictures by very great Masters, of a Gentlem hath lately left of House-keeping, viz. a Rich Genoa Damas other Beds and Bedding, fine India Cabinets, a Six Leaf Screen, fine Tapistry, Hangings and Carpets, Rich Easy Chai other Chairs, fine China, and some Kitchen Goods. To be Day and to Morrow before the Sale; the Pictures to be Sold on day the 1st of May. Catalogues to be had at the House.

At the Lace-Chamber on Ludgate-Hill, ke Mary Parsons, is lately come over great Quantities of Flanders with variety of new fashon Patterns: She bought them th self, so will sell great Penny-worths whole Sail or Retail.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* the *Strand*.